



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Urban Forest Committee

Monday September 14, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

<https://elcerrito.webex.com/elcerrito/onstage/g.php?MTID=e866532a85c76b82b76919f26cacf25>

Event ID: 146 724 0782

Event Password: BJsdieUM863

Join by Phone: 1-408-418-9388

Access code: 146 724 0782

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING: Chair Torrusio called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL– Present:** Chair Mary Torrusio, Vice Chair Robert Hrubes Members Cathy Bleier, Yan Linhart, Robin Mitchell.
Also present: Staff Liaison Stephen Prée; members of the public Susan Duncan, Paul Duncan.
2. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS –** there were none.
3. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / CHANGES TO THE MEETING AGENDA –** Chair Torrusio asked if anyone attended the August Parks and Recreation Commission or Environmental Quality Committee. No one attended either meeting due to a misunderstanding of the schedule. Discussion of Hillside Natural Area (HNA) Vegetation management work this year, work schedule and project budget.
4. **COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS –**
Staff Liaison Prée informed the UFC that he is managing a Rotary International gift to the City that includes soon to be installed rustic log benches for the HNA and vegetation management maintenance tools. He also provided an update on the 2020 El Cerrito Natural Areas Fire Fuel Reduction Project Request for Proposals and Scope of work.
5. **ACTION ITEMS –**
 - Approval of the Minutes from the August 10, 2020 meeting: Motion, Mitchell; 2nd: Hrubes; approved unanimously (roll call vote).
6. **URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, CALENDAR AND WORK PLAN UPDATE:**

- A. UFC and community wildfire prevention – Discussion: the UFC was encouraged to know that the 2020 El Cerrito Natural Areas Fire Fuel Reduction Project is moving forward with an expected budget of \$70K. Potential wildfire related future speakers: Jerry Kent, Patrick McIntyre- Cathy Bleier plans to initiate contact.

- B. UFC activities during the Covid-19 public health restrictions- Discussion of hosting (predominantly fire focused) video presentations or webinars (Bleier). Send announcements in City’s Green newsletter (Mitchell). Peer review videos/ webinars send to an ad-hoc subcommittee for recommendation to whole UFC for future public programing (Torrusio). Questions regarding the FirewiseUSA® organization (Hrubes); UFC invited Sue & Paul Duncan to present information on this topic at the October meeting with the potential outcome of UFC advocacy of the FirewiseUSA® organization. What are people doing during Covid; how can the UFC involve people? Mark certain trees with informational signs, QR codes (Torrusio). Mitchell said she could make demonstration signs. Linhart suggested UFC members nominate tree candidates. Live presentation seminar or instructional videos on tree care and pruning (Mitchell).

7. NEXT MONTH’S CITY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE ASSIGNMENTS

- Chair Torrusio will attend the EQC meeting October 13
- Cathy Bleier will attend the PRC meeting September 23

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- El Cerrito Firesafe- FirewiseUSA presentation – Sue & Paul Duncan
- Potential speakers and programming
- UFC Recruitments

9. ADJOURNMENT- Chair Torrusio adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Mary Torrusio, Chair or Robert Hrubes, Vice Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Urban Forest Committee meeting of March 9, 2020 as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison